

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 SP-02

L-01 SIL-01 LAB-01 EB-03 CIAE-00 SSO-00 IOE-00 EUR-08

EA-06 OIC-01 /058 W

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P R 201630Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6381

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY DUNLOP, SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH;
COMMERCE FOR UPTON

EO: 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO PORG OECD

SUBJ: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL DISCUSSES US POSITION IN ILO

REF: A. GENEVA 7636 (NOTAL); B. GENEVA 7269; (NOTAL) C. OECD
PARIS 25315

1. SUMMARY. ILO DG BLANCHARD (WHO WILL BE IN US FOR WEEK OR TEN DAYS STARTING OCTOBER 20) REITERATED TO LABATT HIS ARGUMENTS AGAINST US GIVING NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO; POINTED OUT DESIRABILITY BY TIME OF NOVEMBER SESSION OF ILO GOVERNING BODY OF CLEAR US POSITION ON (1) PAYMENT OF ILO ASSESSMENT AND (2) NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO; AND URGED HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION BETWEEN US AND INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBERS OF ILO BEFORE GB SESSION IN FEBRUARY AND ALSO AT MARCH 4-5 MEETING OF OECD LABOR MINISTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. BLANCHARD WILL BE IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON FOR WEEK STARTING OCTOBER 20 AND HOPES TO SEE GEORGE MEANY, CHARLES SMITH, SECRETARY DUNLOP, UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, AND AMBASSADOR BUFFUM. SHOULD SECRETARY KISSINGER BE AVAILABLE IN LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER TO MEET WITH BLANCHARD AND OFFICERS OF GOVERNING BODY (REF A), BLANCHARD COULD PROLONG HIS STAY THROUGH LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER.

3. US NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM ILO -- BLANCHARD UNDERSTANDS THAT BASIC DECISION TO GIVE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL HAS BEEN MADE AND THAT ONLY DETAILS AND TIMING REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT. IN UPCOMING WASHINGTON MEETINGS BLANCHARD WILL REITERATE HIS OPPOSITION TO US NOTICE WHICH HE SAID WOULD CREATE CONFUSION AND DOUBT AMONG ILO MEMBERS AND UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW MUCH OF 1976-1977 PROGRAM CAN BE CARRIED OUT. BLANCHARD ALSO FEELS NOTICE OF INTENT WOULD BENEFIT SOVIET UNION AND JOKINGLY WONDERED WHETHER QUIET SOVIET POSTURE IN LAST FEW MONTHS DID NOT REFLECT SOVIET INCREDIBILITY THAT US WOULD BE GIVING ILO TO THEM AS GIFT. THIRDLY, BLANCHARD SAID NOTICE BY US COULD BE VERY DAMAGING TO DOMINANT POSITION OF ILO GOVERNING BODY, WHICH UP TO NOW HAS BEEN ILO FORUM IN WHICH CONSERVATIVE COALITION OF INDUSTRIALIZED NA-
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TIONS, EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS HAS HELD SWAY. IF GOVERNING BODY SEEMED UNABLE TO HANDLE "CRISIS" WITH US, ANNUAL JUNE CONFERENCE MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO "PUT THE ILO HOUSE IN ORDER".

4. US POSITION AT NOVEMBER SESSION OF GOVERNING BODY -- BLANCHARD SAID NOVEMBER SESSION COULD TURN INTO "A CIRCUS" OF ENDLESS DEBATE ON THE US POSTURE, PARTICULARLY FAILURE OF US TO PAY ITS ASSESSMENT. THE WORKERS WERE SURE TO ASK WHETHER HE AND GB IN-

TENDED TO CUT PROGRAM AND ELIMINATE MEETINGS IN ORDER TO PAY FOR INTEREST CHARGES ON MONEY ILO WOULD HAVE TO BORROW BECAUSE FRG, JAPAN AND US HAVE NOT PAID THEIR CY 75 CONTRIBUTIONS. HE SAID SOVIETS WERE LIKELY TO BE STRIDENT IN CRITICISM OF INTEREST CHARGES. BLANCHARD MUST PRESENT TO GB FACTS ABOUT CASH FLOW AND PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS OF FAILURE OF US AND OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO PAY THEIR ASSESSMENTS. HIS PRESENTATION OF PROGRAM FOR 1976 WILL REST ON "POLITICAL" ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT FUTURE PAYMENTS BY MEMBER STATES. THEREFORE, BLANCHARD SAID THAT IN ORDER TO HELP HIM MAKE MOST PERSUASIVE PRESENTATION AND TO AVOID "CURCUS", US REP SHOULD GIVE ASSURANCES ABOUT PAYMENT OF US ASSESSMENT FOR FIRST HALF CY 75 AND US ARREARS; HOPEFULLY US WILL ALSO GIVE SOME IDEA OF WHEN PAYMENT FOR SECOND HALF OF CY 75 AND CY 76 ASSESSMENT MIGHT BE MADE. BLANCHARD PREFERS THAT US ANNOUNCE DECISION ON GIVING NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW BEFORE GB SESSION. BLANCHARD REITERATED THAT TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE AND TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF TRYING TO BLACKMAIL MEMBERS, STATEMENT OF US POSITION SHOULD BE LOW-KEY AND "AS UNDRAMATIC AS POSSIBLE" (PARA 4, REF B).

5. HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATION -- BLANCHARD SAID HE WILL URGE US TO UNDERTAKE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION WITH EUROPEANS. HE SAID MEETINGS SHOULD BE SMALL, HIGH LEVEL (PREFERABLY AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL) AND SHOULD TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE OF GENEVA SO THAT THRID WORLD AND BLOC CANNOT EASILY MONITOR PROCEEDINGS. BLANCHARD BELIEVES THESE CONSULTATIONS COULD TAKE PLACE QUIETLY IN JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY AND INTENDS TO SUGGEST THIS TO FRENCH LABOR MINISTER IN PARIS ON NOVEMBER 5. MEETINGS COULD TAKE PLACE IN PARIS OR OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATION. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY FOR HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION WOULD BE AFTER OR JUST BEFORE MARCH 4-5 MEETING OF OECD LABOR MINISTERS IN PARIS (REF C).

6. COMMENT: IMPORTANT THEME IN ABOVE CONVERSATION AND ELSEWHERE PARA 4, REF B IS BLANCHARD'S CONCERN WITH WAY IN WHICH US CONVEYS CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS POSITION TO ILO MEMBERS. BLANCHARD WANTS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION IN GOVERNING BODY NEXT MONTH AND, THEREFORE, WOULD LIKE TO SEE EASING OF FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND US CONVEYING ITS "SHOPPING LIST" INFORMALLY AND IN CORRIDORS RATHER THAN AS PART OF FORMAL US NOTICE. HIS SUGGESTION FOR HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION IN JANUARY WITH EUROPEANS AND AT OECD IN MARCH REFLECT HIS PREFERENCE FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS. MISSION BELIEVES DEPARTMENT AND DOL SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER BLANCHARD'S SUGGESTIONS BECAUSE (1) DIFFERENT AND VARYING LEVELS OF INTEREST IN ILO AMONG MEMBER COUNTRIES SUGGEST NEED FOR TAILOR-MADE BILATERAL BRIEFINGS AND (2) COOPERATION OF BLANCHARD AND ILO SECRETARIAT ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO SUCCESS OF US EFFORTS; SHOULD BLANCHARD BE CONVINCED US EFFORTS WILL FAIL, HE MAY DRAG HIS FEET, AND US TASK IN TURNING ILO FROM POLITICS TO SUBSTANCE WOULD BECOME MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AND PERHAPS IMPOSSIBLE. MISSION ENDORSES HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS SUGGESTED BY BLANCHARD,

ESPECIALLY AT OECD WHERE JAPANESE, AUSTRALIANS AND CANADIANS --
ALL OF WHOM HAVE SUPPORTED US AT ILO -- ARE MEMBERS AS WELL AS
EUROPEANS.ABRAMS

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